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For further information contact the Auditor General at 222-2435.

The Office of the Auditor General (Office) has again received an unqualified opinion on its audit quality and quality control measures as a result of a recent peer review of its operations. An unqualified opinion is the most favorable report that an audit organization may receive from the peer review process. The National State Auditors Association assembled a team of experienced governmental auditors from other State audit organizations throughout the United States and the federal government to conduct the peer review. The team performed its on-site review during June 2008.

Speaker William J. Murphy, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services, released the results of the peer review of the Office headed by Auditor General Ernest A. Almonte, CPA, CFE. The Office of the Auditor General is the legislative audit organization and serves as the State's independent auditor.

Peer review provides assurance that auditors are adhering to applicable auditing standards in the conduct of their audits. The review focused on the Office's policies and procedures and included review of audits performed by the OAG. The peer review team concluded that the system of quality control of the Office of the Auditor General had been suitably designed and was complied with to provide reasonable assurance of conforming with *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States address auditor independence, reporting of audit results, documentation requirements, audit planning, qualifications and supervision of staff, as well as specific requirements relating to the conduct of financial and performance audits.

Auditor General Almonte indicated that he was extremely pleased by the peer review team's recognition of the quality of the audits performed by the Office of the Auditor General and the overall professionalism of his staff. He continues to be proud of the Office's important role in ensuring government accountability.

A peer review is required once every three years for audit organizations performing audits in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. The Office of the Auditor General has consistently received unqualified opinions on its quality control measures and audit quality since its inception in 1974.